

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /076 W

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R 151841Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3871

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2107

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CI

SUBJECT: GOC CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 2026, (B) SANTIAGO 2028

1. THE GOC HAS FOLLOWED UP ITS DISSOLUTION OF DEMOCRATIC PARTIES (REF A) WITH THREATS AGAINST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (PDC) LEADERS ANDRES ZALDIVAR AND TOMAS REYES. MEANWHILE PDCERS FEAR THAT FURTHER ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO BESMIRCH EX-PRESIDENT FREI.

2. DISPLAYING EVERY INTENTION TO GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS, PRESIDENT PINOCHET TOLD NEWSMEN MARCH 12 THE "REGRETTABLY, THERE WERE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH DID NOT ACCEPT THE (POLITICAL) RECESS AND BELIEVED IT WAS A THING THEY COULD FLOUT. NO ONE MOCKS THIS GOVERNMENT, GENTLEMEN." IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, PINOCHET WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOC WAS "STUDYING" POSSIBLE SANCTION AGAINST ZALDIVAR AND REYES -- SUTHORS OF THE PDC POSITION PAPERS (REF B) WHICH THE GOC USED TO JUSTIFY ITS DRASTIC MEASURES AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION.

3. ZALDIVAR AND REYES ISSUED A STATEMENT ON MARCH 13, REJECTING THE CHARGE BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT HERNAN BEJARES  
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(REF B), ECHOED IN THE PRESS, THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. BEJARES ASSERTED MARCH 11 THAT EVIDENCE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ARRIVING THE FOLLOWING DAY FROM CARACAS AND THAT THE PRESS WOULD BE SHOWN THE CONTENTS. BOTH PDCERS CONTRADICTED BEJARES BY CHARGING THAT THE GOC HAD SEIZED THE PDC DOCUMENTS, AND PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE TO PARTY LEADER MAXIMO PACHECO FROM MRS. PACHECO AS SHE ATTEMPTED TO DEPART PUDAHUEL

AIRPORT ON JANUARY 29 TO JOIN HER HUSBAND, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN THE US.

4. PDCERS TOLD US THEY HAD RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT THE GOC INTENDS TO PRESS THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST FREI, WHO IS THE ONLY PRIVATE PERSON WITH THE STATURE OF A POTENTIAL SUCCESSOR TO PINOCHET. THE PARTY IS ALERT FOR A FUTHER ATTEMPT TO BESMIRCH HIS REPUTATION, POSSIBLE BY TRYING TO CONNECT HIM TO THE CURRENT LOCAL FINANCIAL SCANDALS.

5. MEANWHILE, A PDC MEMBER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT UNIFNROMED AND PLAINCLOTHED GOC POLICE AUTHORITIES STAKED OUT EDUARDO FREI'S HOUSE THE NIGHT OF MARCH 12, JOTTING DOWN LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS OF CARS PARKED IN FRONT. THE SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT ZALDIVAR AND REYES WERE BEING FOLLOWED.SWHILE WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION, THIS SEEMS QUITE PLAUSIBLE.

6. COMMENT: AS THE GOC CAMPAIGN CONTINUES AGAINST THE PDC, WE THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY EXPEL ZALDIVAR AND REYES AND TAKE OTHER ACTION CONSISTENT WITH ITS AIM TO BREAK THE BACK OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION. WE HAVE NO HINT SO FAR THAT THE PDC WOULD SEEK TO MARTYR ITSELF BY PROVOCATIVE ACTION.  
POPPER

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**Review Markings:**  
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